

III. REMARKS

Claims 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are allowed.

In the Office Action, objection was made to claims 1, 5, 11 and 21 for reasons set forth in the Action. In order to overcome these objections, claim 1 is amended by adopting the suggestions of the examiner. Claim 5, which depends from claim 1, is amended along with further amendment to claim 1 by interchanging the terms bi-BPSK of claim 1 with multi-phase shift of claim 5 so that the broader term appears in claim 1 and the narrower term appears in claim 5. Claim 11 is amended by adopting the suggestion of the examiner, namely, by changing the "other channel" to the "second channel". Claim 21 is amended by adopting the suggestions of the examiner.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the recitation in claim 1 disagrees with the teaching of the specification as set forth in the Office Action. Claim 1 is amended to state that it is the remote node, rather than the central node, that provides slot timing and link synchronization via the first channel. This is believed to conform the subject matter of claim 1, as well as the subject matter of its dependent claims, to the teachings of the specification, so as to overcome this ground of rejection.

Also, in the Office Action, Claims 2, 8, 9 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. In order to overcome these grounds of rejection, claim 2 is amended by deleting the words "over the one channel" so as to make the recitation of claim 2 consistent with the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 4 is canceled because its subject matter is essentially the same as the subject matter of amended claim 2.

Claim 8 is amended to state that the first channel provides slot management functions, and that the slot management functions are independent of the second channel. This is believed to make the recitations of claim 8 consistent with the subject matter of claim 1 so as to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 9 is amended to change the "one channel" to the "first channel", and to change the "other channel" to the "second channel" for consistency with the language of claim 1. This is believed to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With respect to claim 11, the above-noted amendment to claim 11 (changing the "other channel" to the "second channel") is believed to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 12 is amended to state that the broadcast link provides link maintenance and management functions. Claim 12 is amended further to state that the multiple access link includes a first channel operating at a lower data rate to achieve a high signal-to-noise ratio to provide slot timing and link synchronization. These amendments to claim 12 are believed to clarify the claim language to show consistency between the recitations of the claim and the teachings of the specification. This should overcome the rejection of claim 12 and its dependent claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing amendments and argument, it is urged that this response has overcome the rejections of the claims so as to secure allowable subject matter in the rejected claims.

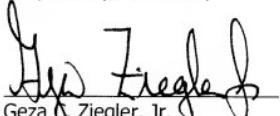
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

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Response to Office Action mailed July 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Geza Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

11 August 2006

Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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